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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**In re Application of:** Verschueren et al.

**Serial No.:** To be assigned

**Filed:** September 24, 2001

**For:** SMAD-INTERACTING  
POLYPEPTIDES AND THEIR USE

**Examiner:** To be assigned

**Group Art Unit:** To be assigned

**Attorney Docket No.:** 4232.1US

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-referenced patent application on the merits, entry of the amendments as set forth herein is respectfully solicited.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please cancel Claims 4-7, 9, 11-17, 19-20 and 23 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 10 has been amended and is presented below in clean form:

- a'
10. A pharmaceutical composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 8, together with a suitable carrier.